gave order that they should be sent away by the East
Serano being somewhat wearied desired to stay in the towr all
night, but that would not be granted , and so through the town
they were convoyed, up to the knees in dirt and mire, so that
when they reached the quarter of the Count de Bucqaoy tney
were thoroughly bedimed, having made a compass of near 12
miles around the drowned lands and unable to reach the Arch-
duke's quarter before next day at noon

Next day they were commanded to try his Lordship once
more and this time were admitted to come. The Serjeant
Major of the town demanded which way he should bring them
in, and Sir Francis willed him to guide them where they might
come soft enough, for fear of embossing their feet on the hard
stones, saying that besides their dirty walk they should come
to as cold a bargain as ever they met withal in their lives So
they came to Sir Francis and said that now they hoped his Lord-
ship and they should agree He answers, [c] The agreement is
easily made if his Highness will raise his siege, and suffer us, as
his poor neighbours, to live by him in peace * Then to cut off
further progression in this discourse, he tells them after their
wearisome journey it is more fitting to entertain them with
mean refreshing than with serious expostulation, and thereupon
entreats them to supper, where they were entertained to fish,
eggs and such junkets besides as a town so long besieged could
afford, taking out in claret wine what they lacked in meat,
Serano drinking for his share above fifty-two glasses of wine,
besides beer, answering every man in the cup, and yet gave no
manner of appearance of yielding any way to distemper. During
their sitting at supper many jests were bandied

with good dex-
terity on both sides Amongst others, Sir Francis saying that
his Highness desired all and the States would willingly part with
nothing, the Spaniard replied that Archduke demanded but his
own To that his Lordship told him that he had never studied
the laws to judge of men's titles, but that in England we do
commonly hold possession n points of the 12.

After supper the Spaniards, wearied with their late miry journeys, were by his Lordship conducted to their lodging where they rested till morning But whilst they slept three ships of war laden with 6 companies of Zealand soldiers arrived in